

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Michael W. Johnson
 Application No.: 09/880615
 Filed: June 13, 2001
 For: STENT DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEM
 Examiner: Jeremie E. Cozart
 Group Art Unit: 3726

Box RCE
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Docket No.: S63.2N-6531-US03

AMENDMENT

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 13, 2003. A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith the Amendment. Please amend the application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please amend claim 23 and 32 as follows:

C1
 23. (Thrice amended) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of: providing a tube, the tube characterized by a longitudinal axis, having at least two different longitudinally spaced regions of different predetermined physical characteristics, and subsequently cutting a stent from the tube.

C2
 32. (Thrice amended) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of: providing a tube having at least two different longitudinally spaced regions of different predetermined physical characteristics; and subsequently, cutting a plurality of openings in the tube to form a stent.

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated October 9, 2002 claims 23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 32, 34, and 35 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Yan (5,843,172). Claims 23, 24, 27-30, 32, 33, and 36-40 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over